N° 13. *Monday, January* 16.

Non fumum *ex* fulgore *ſed ex* fumo *dare* lucem
Cogitat—— Hor.

To CALEB D'ANVERS, *Eſq;*

SIR,

SINCE you have given my Brother *Civicus* ſo kind a Reception, I flatter myſelf that it will not be diſagreeable, if I let you into ſome Secrets relating to the *E—ſt I—a C—y*; and acquaint you with the Behaviour of the *favourite Director*; who is the DIRECTOR *of Directors*, and their SCREEN-MASTER-GENERAL.

This Gentleman is of their Committee of *T—ry*, and by thoſe Means is a perfect Maſter of all the Accounts of the *Company*; and is beſides ſo ready and able a *Speaker*, that They entirely depend upon him to defend them againſt the Clamour of their *general Courts*; and, to give him his Due, he has both the *Aſſurance* and the *Addreſs* to perſuade them, that their *Directors* are paying off their Debts; when, at the ſame Time, they are enriching *Themſelves* and *their Creatures*, at the Expence of the *Company*. This being the Caſe, the reſt are forced to ſubmit to him in every Thing. *He* makes *Directors*. *He* makes *Secretaries*. *He* makes *Clerks*. *He* makes *Governors*. *He* makes *Chaplains* to their *Factories*. *He* makes their *Officers* and *Soldiers*; and, to ſum up all, *He* has made to himſelf an *immenſe Fortune*. But not ſatisfied with This (whether out of

vain Glory, or to lay other Parts of the World under Contribution) *He* has pick'd a Quarrel with the *great Mogul*, the *Emperor* of *China*, and the *Sophy* of *Perſia*; and, tho' by theſe Means, the *Company's Ships* may be ſeiz'd, and their *Trade* prohibited; yet, if They will take his Word, it is all for the *better*. He has declared that the *D—ch E—ſt In—a Company* have acceded upon a Promiſe, that our *I—a C—y* will bear the whole Expence of the War, and give them a good, handſome Sum into the Bargain; and that we may have more Friends upon the ſame Terms; meaning, as I hear, the two *Inſurances*, and the *charitable Corporation*. He ſays that the *Copper Merchants* have it under their Deliberation; and that it is not doubted but they will likewiſe take *our Money*, when They have puniſhed a Perſon, who has cheated them, and are convinced, that nobody will give them *more*. He ſeems to value himſelf much upon the Zeal of one of the Principals, *viz.* the *B—k*; and ſays that They will be ready, upon Demand, with their *hundred Thouſands*; but I find it is moſt People's Opinion, that They are playing their old Game of lying by, 'till they are aſſured of their INTEREST. The *S—th S—a* Company, which was at firſt a Principal, and the moſt nearly concern'd, has, as we are told, being very neceſſitous, taken Money on both Sides; but it is not doubted that this *Gentleman* will fix them at laſt; it being a *Game* he is perfectly acquainted with. The *An——s*, I think, are allow'd by all Sides (like the Duke of *Lorrain*) to ſtand *neuter*. The two *Water-Offices* have offered their Aſſiſtance. The Demands of the one are very exorbitant; for They inſiſt upon having their Engine kept in Repair. The other, being compoſed of *publick-ſpirited Men*, will do it *gratis*, for the Honour of it, being at preſent out of Buſineſs; but, in my humble Opinion, They ought to be reſerved as *Mediators* and *Peace-makers*,

makers, if they can furniſh Water enough to cool St. *Stephen's Chappel*. This we are told is the State of our Affairs; but the *Gentleman*, out of his great Modeſty, will not ſtrike the Bargain with any of them, without the Sanction of a *general Court*; which he deſigns to call very ſoon, and does not doubt that his Meaſures will be crown'd with Succeſs, if the *Court* will do as he wou'd have them. He has had a *private Meeting* already with ſeveral of the *Proprietors* at his Friend's in the City, where they came to the following *Reſolutions*, viz.

" That the hearty Thanks of the Company be re-
" turn'd to their *Directors*, for their great *Care* and
" *Vigilance* in diſcharge of their Office.

" That, notwithſtanding their Stock was fallen from
" 180 *per Cent.* to 130; They were ſenſible of the
" great *Bleſſings* they enjoyed under their *happy Di-*
" *rection*.

" That They would maintain and ſupport their
" *Directors* againſt all their open and ſecret Enemies
" both at *Home* and *Abroad*.

" That if any Prince or Potentate (how great ſo-
" ever) ſhould give himſelf Airs to any Perſon em-
" ploy'd by this *Company*, they will ſufficiently enable
" their *Directors* to chaſtiſe his Inſolence.

" That they will give Power to their *Directors* to
" make a conſiderable CALL, and to borrow *what*
" *Money They pleaſe*; for which the *Company* will be
" anſwerable."

Theſe *Reſolutions*, I am told, were unanimouſly agreed to; and *Thoſe*, who were not already employ'd in the *Company*'s Service, had an Aſſurance from this *Gentleman* that they ſhould be provided for upon the firſt *Vacancies*.

Now, Sir, I beg you will publiſh this Account, before a Meeting of a *general Court*; that the *innocent*

Proprietors may be appriſed of what is intended. I am, with great Reſpect,

SIR,

Your moſt obedient, humble Servant,

C. URBANICUS.

P. S. I had forgot to tell you the Occaſion of the Quarrel, which was thus. The *Great Mogul* has been heard to ſay, more than once, that all his *own Dominions* were his *own*; and that he had conſented to a *Trade* with the *Emperor* of *China*; but I never heard what Offence the *Sophy* of *Perſia* has given to our *Company*; unleſs They are in ſome private Treaty with the *T—ky C——ny* in behalf of the *Grand Seignior*.

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Friday,